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protective coating covers at least about 80% of the upper surface of the asphalt coating in the exposed portion of the roofing material.

6. (Previously Amended) An asphalt-based roofing material including a portion that is normally exposed when the roofing material is installed on a roof, the roofing material comprising:

a substrate coated with an asphalt coating, the asphalt coating including an upper surface that is positioned above the substrate when the roofing material is installed on the roof,

a protective coating adhered to the upper surface of the asphalt coating, the protective coating comprising a unitary layer covering at least about 80% of the upper surface of the asphalt coating in the exposed portion of the roofing material, and

a surface layer of granules adhered to the protective coating.

7. (Previously Canceled)

8. (Previously Canceled)

9. (Previously Canceled)

10. (Previously Canceled)

11. (Previously Canceled)

12. (Original) The roofing material of claim 6 in which a substantially continuous layer of the protective coating is maintained between the asphalt coating and at least about 30% of the granules that penetrate the asphalt coating.

13. (Original) The roofing material of claim 6 which, after aging by 60 days exposure to alternating cycles of concentrated solar radiation and water spray, then cooled to 14°F (-10°C) and subjected to a UL 2218 Class 4 impact, exhibits improved adhesion of the granules as measured by at least about 30% less granule loss in the area of impact compared with the same roofing material without the protective coating.

14. (Previously Amended) An asphalt-based roofing material comprising:
a substrate coated with an asphalt coating, the asphalt coating including an upper surface that is positioned above the substrate when the roofing material is installed on a roof,

a protective unitary coating adhered to the upper surface of the asphalt coating,
and

a surface layer of granules adhered to the protective coating, wherein at least a portion of the granules penetrate the asphalt coating, and wherein the protective coating provides a seal to prevent outside moisture from flowing around the granules to the asphalt coating.

15. (Previously Canceled)
16. (Previously Canceled)
17. (Withdrawn)
18. (Withdrawn)
19. (Withdrawn)
20. (Withdrawn)
21. (Previously Canceled)
22. (Previously Canceled)
23. (Previously Canceled)
24. (Withdrawn)
25. (Withdrawn)
26. (Withdrawn)
27. (Withdrawn)
28. (Previously Canceled)
29. (Previously Canceled)
30. (Previously Canceled)
31. (Previously Canceled)
32. (Previously Canceled)
33. (Previously Canceled)
34. (Previously Canceled)
35. (Previously Canceled)
36. (Withdrawn)
37. (Withdrawn)
38. (Withdrawn)

- 39. (Withdrawn)
- 40. (Previously Canceled)
- 41. (Withdrawn)
- 42. (Withdrawn)
- 43. (Withdrawn)
- 44. (Canceled)
- 45. (Previously Added) The roofing material of claim 1, wherein the web is fused to the lower region of the asphalt coating.
- 46. (Previously Added) The roofing material of claim 45, the web improving the impact resistance of the roofing material such that, when tested under impact resistance test UL 2218, the roofing material exhibits an impact resistance improvement of at least two UL 2218 classes compared with the same roofing material without the web.
- 47. (Amended) The roofing material of claim 5, wherein the protective layer is applied to the upper surface as a unitary layer.
- 48. (Previously Added) The roofing material of claim 6, wherein the protective coating is extruded onto the upper surface of the asphalt coating.
- 49. (Previously Added) The roofing material of claim 6, wherein the protective coating comprises one or more solidified film strips applied onto the upper surface of the asphalt coating, the strips being melted to form the unitary layer.
- 50. (Previously Added) The roofing material of claim 6, wherein said protective coating comprises a particulate material applied onto the upper surface of the asphalt coating, the particulate material being melted to form the unitary layer.
- 51. (new) The roofing material of claim 2 which meets a UL 2218 Class 4 impact resistance standard.
- 52. (new) The roofing material of claim 1 which, after aging by 60 days exposure to alternating cycles of concentrated solar radiation and water spray, then cooled to 14°F (-10°C) and subjected to a UL 2218 Class 4 impact, exhibits improved adhesion of the granules as measured by at least about 30% less granule loss in the area of impact compared with the same roofing material without the protective

coating.

53. (new) The roofing material of claim 6 in which the protective coating has an average thickness of at least about 1 mil (0.025 mm).

54. (new) The roofing material of claim 6 in which the protective coating comprises an adhesive.

55. (new) The roofing material of claim 6 in which the coating material is selected so that the granules adhere to the coating material predominantly by polar bonding.

56. (new) The roofing material of claim 6 in which the coating material is selected from the group consisting of ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers modified with styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, ethylene-ethyl acetate copolymers, ethylene-n-butylacrylate polymers, ethylene-methacrylate polymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block or graft copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block or graft copolymers, other styrene-containing block or graft copolymers, polyamide terpolymers, hydrocarbon rubbers, polyethylenes, polyesters, polyurethanes, siloxanes, and mixtures of these materials.

57. (new) The roofing material of claim 14 in which a substantially continuous layer of the protective coating is maintained between the asphalt coating and at least about 30% of the granules that penetrate the asphalt coating.

58. (new) The roofing material of claim 14 in which the protective coating completely envelops a number of the granules within the range of from about 0.5% to about 6% of the total granules.